

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 EURE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7115

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 0630

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJ: GREEK PRESS CONTINUES TO HIGHLIGHT THE AEGEAN ISSUE

REF ATHENS 592

1. MOST GREEK LANGUAGE PAPERS JANUARY 23 GAVE TOP PLAY TO RECENT SPEECH OF PM IRMAK IN KONYA (EXACT DATE NOT GIVEN) HIGHLIGHTING HIS REMARK THAT "HALF THE AEGEAN IS OURS, AND ALL MUST KNOW THIS." ANOTHER AEGEAN RELATED STORY FOCUSES ON LENGTHY MEETING PREVIOUS EVENING WHICH PM CARAMANLIS HELD WITH MINDEF AVEROFF AND OTHER DEFENSE OFFICIALS. THE MEETING REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS "IN LIGHT OF ESCALATING TURKISH PROVOCATIONS BOTH AS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN."

2. KATHIMERINI INTRODUCES ITS REPORTING WITH HEADLINE "THE GOVERNMENT CONFRONTS TURKISH PROVOCATION", WHILE TA NEA ALERTS ITS READERSHIP WITH LEADER "INCREASING TENSION IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS." APOYEVMATINI SPLASHED ACROSS ITS BACK PAGE "TURKS SEEK HALF THE AEGEAN," AS AKRPOLIS REPORTS THAT "EXTENSIVE EVENING MEETING CONCERNING DEFENSE" HAD BEEN HELD PREVIOUS NIGHT; SUBSEQUENT SUB-HEADLINE READS "ANKARA BRAGS THAT HALF THE AEGEAN IS OURS, AS WELL AS HALF OF CYPRUS."

3. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU STATEMENT EVENING JANUARY 22 ALSO GIVEN GOOD PLAY IN PRESS. AS REPORTED BY ATHENS NEWS AGENCY, PASOK LEADER STATED THAT THE "ESCALATION OF THREATS BY TURKEY, OPENLY SUPPORTED BY BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, MEANS THAT WE HAVE ENTERED A PERIOD OF SWIFT DEVELOPMENTS AS TO BOTH THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN ISSUES." PAPANDREOU WENT ON TO DECLARE THAT "GREEK PEOPLE WILL FACE (ISSUES) WITH COOLNESS AND DECISIVENESS AND THEY WILL DEFEND THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS AGAINST ANY FOREIGN PLOT." HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO "ENLIGHTEN THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE ON THE SITUATION AND MOBILIZE THE GREEKS ABROAD IN A EFFORT TO EFFECTIVELY INFORM WORLD OPINION."
KUBISCH

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